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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/390,824	09/07/1999	HANNSJORG OBERMAIER	10981400-7	7605

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EXAMINER

FIGUEROA, FELIX O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 02/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/390,824

Applicant(s)

OBERMAIER, HANNSJORG

Examiner

Felix O. Figueroa

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 December 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 17-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 17-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 13, 14 and 17-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moss (US 6,185,093) in view of Cranston, III et al. (US 5,708,563).

Moss discloses a computer connection system comprising a carrier (100) for connecting a planar printed circuit board card (28a) to a chassis (26a), wherein the card has a lower edge including a card system connector (32a), wherein the chassis defines an opening (102) for receiving a card and wherein the chassis includes a chassis system connector (106) to be placed in communication with the card system connector of the received card, the chassis system connector and opening defining a carrier-insertion direction (see Fig.10), comprising: a planar body (46) having a front end and a rear end, a first system connector (50) carried on the body and configured to mate and communicate with the card system connector in a card-insertion direction (see Fig.7) such that the plane of the printed circuit board card is parallel to the plane of the body, and a second system connector (54) carried on the body and configured to mate and communicate with the chassis system connector, wherein the second system connector is in communication with the first system connector, wherein the first and

second system connectors are configured such that the card-insertion direction differs from the carrier-insertion direction; wherein the body and the first and second system connectors are configured such that, with the card system connector mated to the first system connector, the second system connector fits insertably through the opening in the, chassis-insertion direction to mate with the chassis system connector. Moss discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the bulkhead in the card.

Cranston teaches the use of a planar printed circuit board card (71) including a bulkhead (73), the card bulkhead being approximately coplanar with the chassis opening when the card system connector is mated with the first system connector and the second system connector is mated with the chassis system connector to provide an external connection to the card. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a card including a bulkhead being approximately coplanar with the chassis opening, as taught by Cranston, to provide an external connection to the card.

Regarding claim 3, Moss discloses the body including integral wiring to put the second system connector in communication with the first system connector.

Regarding claim 4, Moss discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the guide in the front end of the body. Cranston teaches a guide at the front end of the body, the guide being configured to guide movements of the card in mating the card system connector with the first system connector, and the guide being configured to support the card when the card system connector is mated with the first system connector. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to form the body of Moss including a guide at the front end, as taught by Cranston, to guide insertion of the card.

Regarding claim 6, Moss, as modified by Cranston, discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the second guide being adjustable. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make one or both of the guides adjustable, since it has been held that the provision of adjustability involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Stevens*, 101 USPQ 284 (CCPA 1954).

Regarding claim 9, Moss discloses the chassis comprising a guide (120) configured to guide the carrier through the chassis opening, and configured to guide the second system connector to mate with the chassis system connector.

Specifically in claim 17, Moss, as modified by Cranston, teaches the claimed method.

Claim 5 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moss and Cranston, III et al., and further in view of Welsh (US 4,935,847).

Moss, as modified by Cranston, discloses substantially the claimed invention (see discussion on claim 4) except for the handle. Welsh teaches a handle (30) on the front end of the carrier (12) to facilitate the insertion and extraction of the carrier into the chassis (14). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a handle on the front end of the carrier, as taught by Welsh, to facilitate the insertion and extraction of the carrier into the chassis.

Claims 10, 12, 15, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moss and Cranston, III et al., and further in view of Clements (US 5,963,681).

Regarding claim 10, Moss, as modified by Cranston, discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the guide being configured as a track composed of a translucent material; and a light source at the guide end within the chassis, the light source being configured to illuminate the guide end at the chassis opening, and the light source being configured to provide information on the status of the card. Clements teaches a guide/track (10) of translucent material and a light source (20) to provide information of the system (see col. 4 lines 50-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to a guide/track of translucent material and a light source, as taught by Clements, to provide information of the system.

Claim 11 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moss and Cranston, III et al., and further in view of Beak (US 5,496,185).

Moss, as modified by Cranston, discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the compressive electrically conductive material. Beak teaches the use of a compressive electrically conductive material connecting a card (10) to a chassis (16) to provide ground connection between the card and the chassis. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a compressive electrically conductive material connecting a card to a chassis as taught by Beak to provide ground connection between the card and the chassis.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/26/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Cranston teaches the use of bulkhead for providing an external connection means to the circuit board (col. 4, lines 58-62), specifically depending upon the particular circuit board. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a card including a bulkhead being approximately coplanar with the chassis opening, as taught by Cranston, to provide an external connection to the card.

In response to applicant's arguments regarding claim 5, please note that it has been held that the term "integral" is sufficiently broad to embrace constructions united by such means as fastening and welding. *In re Hotte*, 177 USPQ 326, 328 (CCPA 1973). In this case, adding the handle, as taught by Welsh, would have resulted in the handle being integral with the carrier body and thus with the guide.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (703) 308-0097. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 8:00-5:00.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

ffr
February 3, 2003


RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER